

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /132 W

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R 052025Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5608

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4158

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: LOPEZ NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 4123 AND 4159

1. EL CRONISTA CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL LOPEZ IN ITS NOVEMBER 5 ISSUE. LOPEZ STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS WORKING FOR THE POSITIVE AND PROFOUND DEVELOPMENT OF HONDURAS. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS BETTER TO WORK SLOWLY AND SURELY TOWARD THAT END RATHER THAN RISK A RAPID BUT INSECURE DEVELOPMENT. LOPEZ SAID THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE CONSCIOUS OF THEIR DUTY TO BRING THE COUNTRY OUT OF ITS PRESENT STATE OF BACKWARDNESS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSCIOUS OF ITS HISTORICAL ROLE AND DOES NOT FEAR THE JUDGMENT OF HISTORY.

2. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE COUNTRY SHOULD NOT WASTE THIS OPPORTUNITY, AND THAT ALL GROUPS SHOULD COOPERATE IN DEVELOPING HONDURAS. HE SAID THAT THE CONTEMPLATED CHANGES WOULD BENEFIT MANY AND, AS TO BE EXPECTED, CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD AFFECT OTHERS. HE RAMARKED THAT, COME WHAT MAY,

HONDURAS HAS TO MOVE FORWARD. HE POINTED OUT THAT OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE MOST POWERFUL WERE ALSO CONFRONTED WITH SERIOUS AND DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. HE ENDED THE INTERVIEW BY SAYING THAT THOSE SECTORS OF SOCIETY THAT CRITICIZE PRESENT AND PROPOSED PROGRAMS SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE SITUATION BEFORE THEY CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: INTERVIEW IS STRONGEST PUBLIC STATEMENT BY LOPEZ OF HIS CONFIDENCE IN THE "GOVERNMENT TEAM" SINCE AN INTERVIEW HE GRANTED LA NOTICIA ON MAY 30. HE CERTAINLY GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE IS DISSATISFIED WITH HIS MINISTERS OR THAT HE HAS ANY PLANS TO REPLACE THEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HIS STRONG EMPHASIS ON THE NEED OF ALL SECTORS TO WORK TOGETHER IS A REFLECTION OF HIS CONCERN RECENTLY RELATED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE OPPOSING CHANGES THAT ARE NECESSARY TO PREVENT A SOCIAL UPHEAVAL.
SANCHEZ

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